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PROTOCOL TO THE INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION FOR THE NORTHWEST ATLANTIC FISHERIES

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 10, 1957.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. GREEN, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany Executive F, 85th Congress, 1st session]

The Committee on Foreign Relations, having had under consideration the protocol to the International Convention for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, unanimously reports the protocol to the Senate and recommends that it give its advice and consent to ratification thereof.

PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND OF THE PROTOCOL

The purpose of the protocol is to permit the Commission established by the 1949 Convention for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries to hold its annual meetings elsewhere than in North America, as now required by article II, paragraph 5, of that convention.

By the 1949 convention, which was ratified by the United States on September 1, 1949 (1 U. S. T. 477), the parties adopted certain measures designed to protect and conserve the fisheries of the Northwest Atlantic Ocean in order to make possible the maintenance of a maximum sustained catch from those fisheries.

To achieve this purpose, a Commission was established by the convention, composed of representatives of the contracting parties. Article II, paragraph 5, of the convention provides that the regular annual meetings of the Commission must be held only in North America. The provision appears to have been adopted at the urging of the United States and Canadian delegations, who wanted to emphasize the interest which their two nations had in fisheries off their Northwest Atlantic coasts. Inasmuch as 8 of the 10 parties to the convention are not North American countries, attendance at the annual meeting has imposed a disproportionate burden and expense upon the other governments.

The present protocol seeks to correct this inequity by amending paragraph 5 of article II of the convention so as to permit annual meetings of the Commission to be held outside North America if the Commission so agrees.

ESTIMATED COST TO THE UNITED STATES

It is estimated by the Department of State that the effect of the protocol will be to increase the cost of United States participation in the regular annual meetings by approximately $12,000 to $14,000, depending upon the site of the Conference. For example, the cost of sending a 12-member delegation to Lisbon, Portugal, for the forthcoming meeting, will amount to $14,200, as compared with a cost of $2,500 had the meeting been held in Halifax, Nova Scotia.

COMMITTEE ACTION AND RECOMMENDATION

The protocol to the International Convention for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries was signed at Washington on June 25, 1956. It was transmitted to the Senate on February 18, 1957, and referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

The committee considered the protocol in executive session on April 3, 1957, and voted without objection to report it to the Senate. As already noted, the protocol merely amends the 1949 convention so as to authorize holding the regular annual meeting at any place in the world which might be determined by the Commission, a two-thirds majority vote of the members being required for that purpose under paragraph 7, article II, of the 1949 agreement.

It is the view of the committee that the protocol corrects an inequitable feature of the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries Convention, and would contribute to a more harmonious relationship between the parties. For this reason, the Committee on Foreign Relations urges the Senate to give its advice and consent to ratification of the protocol.

IN EXECUTIVE SESSION, SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Resolved (*two-thirds of the Senators present concurring therein*), That the Senate advise and consent to the ratification of Executive F, Eighty-fifth Congress, first session, a protocol to the International Convention for the Northwest Atlantic Fisheries, signed at Washington under date of February 8, 1949, which protocol was signed at Washington under date of June 25, 1956, for the United States of America and nine other governments.

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